IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Nigel R. Ellis and Rodger N. Kline

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**   Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **December 16, 1998**   Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **AUTOMATIC DATABASE STATISTICS CREATION**

Assistant Commissioner
   for Patents
Washington, D.C.   20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11, and 12.

Please add claims 20 through 28, to appear as follows:

20.   The computer of claim 10, wherein said threshold value is a constant.

21.   The computer of claim 10, wherein said threshold value is a function of the data.